AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
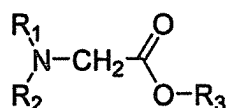
This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) A parakeratosis inhibitor agent and pore-shrinking agent comprising at least one or two or more compounds selected from a group consisting of glycine derivatives, aminodicarbonic acid derivatives, acylaminodicarbonic acid derivatives, pyrrolidinecarboxylic acid derivatives, piperidinecarboxylic acid derivatives, hexamethyleneiminecarboxylic acid derivatives and beta-alanine derivatives as well as the salts of said derivatives.

2. (original) A parakeratosis inhibitor agent and pore-shrinking agent in accordance with claim 1, comprising a glycine derivative as represented by the following general formula (1):

[formula 1]

$$\underset{R_2}{\overset{R_1}{N}}-CH_2-\overset{O}{\underset{O-R_3}{\diagup}}$$

(1)

(In the above formula (1), R_1 and R_2 represent respectively and independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, an aminomethylcarbonyl group, an amidino group, an alkyl-carbonyl group, an alkenyl-carbonyl group, an aryl-carbonyl group, or an aralkyl-carbonyl group; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group. It is to be noted that R_1, R_2, and R_3 may not be all hydrogen atoms at the same time.)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A parakeratosis inhibitor agent and pore-shrinking agent comprising an effective ingredient including at least one or two or more compounds selected from a group consisting of glycine derivatives, aminodicarbonic acid derivatives, acylaminodicarbonic acid derivatives, pyrrolidinecarbonic acid derivatives, piperidinecarbonic acid derivatives, hexamethyleneiminecarbonic acid derivatives, and beta-alanine derivatives as well as the salts of said derivatives, in accordance with claim 1.

8. (previously presented) A parakeratosis inhibiting skin preparation for external use comprising a parakeratosis inhibitor agent in accordance with claim 1.

9. (previously presented) A pore-shrinking skin preparation for external use comprising a pore-shrinking agent in accordance with claim 1 .
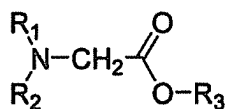
10.-26. (cancelled)

27. (new) A parakeratosis inhibitor agent and pore-shrinking agent in accordance with claim 1, comprising glycylglycine.

28. (new) A method of shrinking a skin pore comprising applying an effective amount of a parakeratosis inhibitor agent comprising at least one or two or more compounds selected from a group consisting of glycine derivatives as well as the salts of the glycine derivatives to shrink a skin pore.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, comprising a glycine derivative as represented by the following general formula (1):

[formula 1]

$$
\begin{array}{c}
R_1 \\
\diagdown \\
N-CH_2-C \diagdown {}^O \\
\diagup \qquad \quad O-R_3 \\
R_2
\end{array}
$$

(1)

(In the above formula (1), R_1 and R_2 represent respectively and independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, an aralkyl group, an aminomethylcarbonyl group, an amidino group, an alkyl-carbonyl group, an alkenyl-carbonyl group, an aryl-carbonyl group, or an aralkyl-carbonyl group; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aryl group, or an aralkyl group. It is to be noted that R_1, R_2, and R_3 may not be all hydrogen atoms at the same time.)

30. (new) The method of claim 28, the glycine derivative comprising glycylglycine.

31. (new) The method of claim 29, the glycine derivative comprising glycylglycine.

32. (new) The method of claim 28, comprising applying an effective amount of the parakeratosis inhibitor agent to an external surface of skin.

33. (new) The method of claim 28, comprising applying a parakeratosis inhibiting skin preparation comprising the effective amount of the parakeratosis inhibitor agent to an external surface of skin.

34. (new) The method of claim 28, comprising applying a pore shrinking skin preparation comprising the effective amount of the parakeratosis inhibitor agent to an external surface of skin.